

Claim Amendments

1. (currently amended) A landscape/erosion control structure for retaining landscaping materials, the landscape/erosion control structure comprising:

- a. a lower support structure;
- b. a plurality of spines attached to the lower support structure, each of said plurality of spines being formed with a base end, a base portion, an elongated distal portion, and a distal end;
- c. wherein the spines are arranged in relation to each other and to the lower support structure such that spaces exist between most of the distal portions of the spines; and
- d. the spines are relatively stiff such that the distal ends of the spines stand away from the lower support structure when in a rest position and the spines can hold landscape material.

2. (original) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 1, wherein: a substantial number of the distal ends of the spines do not touch other spines.

3. (currently amended) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 1, wherein:

the distal portions of the spines have a designated width and the spaces between the distal portions of adjacent spines is substantially greater than the width of the spines.

4. (original) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 1, wherein; when the plurality of spines are in the rest position, the distal portions of most of the spines are disposed at an acute angle to the lower support structure.

5. (original) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 1, wherein: said plurality of spines are arranged in discrete rows.

6. (original) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 1, wherein:

1 said elongated distal portions of said spines are generally directed in a
 similar direction.

7. (currently amended) ~~The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 1,~~
5 ~~wherein: A landscape/erosion control structure for retaining landscaping~~
~~materials, the landscape/erosion control structure comprising:~~

- a. a lower support structure;
- b. a plurality of spines attached to the lower support structure,
10 each of said plurality of spines being formed with a base end, a base
portion, an elongated distal portion, and a distal end;
- c. wherein the spines are arranged in relation to each other and to
the lower support structure such that spaces exist between most of
the distal portions of the spines;
- d. the spines are relatively stiff such that the distal ends of the
15 spines stand away from the lower support structure when in a rest
position; and
- e. said base portions of said spines are wider than said elongated
distal portions.

20 8. (original) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 1, wherein:
 said distal ends of said spines come to a point.

25 9. (original) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 7, wherein:
 said spines have a triangular shape.

30 10. (original) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 1, wherein:
 the distal portions of the spines are curved.

35 11. (original) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 1, wherein:
 the distal portions of the spines are curled.

 12. (original) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 1, wherein:
 the distal portions of the spines are angled nearly parallel to the lower
 support structure.

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13. (original) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 1, wherein:
the lower support structure is landscape fabric material and the
landscape fabric material substantially blocks the transmission of
sunlight through the landscape fabric material.

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14. (original) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 1, wherein:
the lower support structure does not block the transmission of
sunlight.

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15. (original) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 1, wherein:
a. said lower support structure comprises a plurality of strips that
carry the spines;
b. said plurality of strips being joined together.

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16. (currently amended) ~~The landscape/erosion control structure of claim~~
~~15, further comprising:~~ A landscape/erosion control structure for retaining
landscaping materials, the landscape/erosion control structure comprising:

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- a. a lower support structure;
- b. a plurality of spines attached to the lower support structure,
each of said plurality of spines being formed with a base end, a base
portion, an elongated distal portion, and a distal end;
- c. wherein the spines are arranged in relation to each other and to
the lower support structure such that spaces exist between most of
the distal portions of the spines;
- d. wherein the spines are relatively stiff such that the distal ends
of the spines stand away from the lower support structure when in a
rest position; and
- e. wherein said lower support structure comprises a plurality of
strips that carry the spines, said plurality of strips being joined
together;
- [[a]] f. a plurality of second strips that do not have spines;
- [[b]] g. a sheet of landscape fabric material; and

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1 [[c]] h. said sheet of landscape fabric material is disposed
between said plurality of strips that carry the spines and the plurality
of second strips that do not have spines.

5 17. (original) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 16, wherein:
said second strips have pegs which are received in holes in the strips
carrying the spines.

10 18. (currently amended) ~~The landscape/erosion control structure of claim~~
~~15, wherein:~~ A landscape/erosion control structure for retaining landscaping
materials, the landscape/erosion control structure comprising:

a. a lower support structure;

15 b. a plurality of spines attached to the lower support structure,
each of said plurality of spines being formed with a base end, a base
portion, an elongated distal portion, and a distal end;

c. wherein the spines are arranged in relation to each other and to
the lower support structure such that spaces exist between most of
the distal portions of the spines;

20 d. wherein the spines are relatively stiff such that the distal ends
of the spines stand away from the lower support structure when in a
rest position;

25 e. wherein said lower support structure comprises a plurality of
strips that carry the spines, said plurality of strips being joined
together;

[[a]] f. wherein said plurality of strips that carry the spines are
elongated and are arranged in substantially parallel relationship;

[[b]] g. wherein each of said plurality of strips that carry the
spines has a first end and a second end; and

30 [[c]] h. wherein selected pairs of adjacent strips that carry the
spines are arranged so that the first end of the first one of said strips
making up the selected pair of adjacent strips is not in alignment with
the first end of the second strip of the selected adjacent pair of strips.

35 19. (original) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 18, wherein:

1 selected adjacent pairs of strips occur at regular intervals along the
lower support structure.

20. (original) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 19, further
5 comprising:

 a. a second landscape/erosion control structure comprising:

 1. a lower support structure;

10 2. a plurality of spines attached to the lower support
structure, each of said plurality of spines being formed with a
base end, a base portion, an elongated distal portion, and a
distal end;

15 3. wherein the spines are arranged in relation to each other
and to the lower support structure such that spaces exist
between most of the distal portions of the spines, and the
spines are relatively stiff such that the distal ends of the spines
stand away from the lower support structure when in a rest
position; and

20 4. said lower support structure comprises a plurality of strips
that carry the spines, said plurality of strips being joined
together, said plurality of strips that carry the spines are
elongated and are arranged in substantially parallel relationship,
each of said plurality of strips that carry the spines having a first
end and a second end, and selected pairs of adjacent strips that
25 carry the spines are arranged so that the first end of the first
one of said strips making up the selected pair of adjacent strips
is not in alignment with the first end of the second strip of the
selected adjacent pair of strips, and the selected adjacent pairs
of strips occur at regular intervals along the lower support
structure; and wherein

30 b. the first and second landscape/erosion control structures are
arranged so that the second ends of the strips carrying the spines of
the first landscape/erosion control structure are adjacent to the first
ends of the strips carrying the spines of the second landscape/erosion
control structure.

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1 21. (currently amended) ~~The landscape/erosion control structure of claim~~
2, ~~wherein~~ A landscape/erosion control structure for retaining landscaping
materials, the landscape/erosion control structure comprising:

5 a. a lower support structure;

b. a plurality of spines attached to the lower support structure,
each of said plurality of spines being formed with a base end, a base
portion, an elongated distal portion, and a distal end;

10 c. wherein the spines are arranged in relation to each other and to
the lower support structure such that spaces exist between most of
the distal portions of the spines;

d. the spines are relatively stiff such that the distal ends of the
spines stand away from the lower support structure when in a rest
position;

15 e. a substantial number of the distal ends of the spines do not
touch other spines; and

f. the distal portions of the spines have a designated width and
the spaces between the distal portions of adjacent spines is
substantially greater than the width of the spines.

20 22. (original) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 21, wherein;
when the plurality of spines are in the rest position, the distal portions
of most of the spines are disposed at an acute angle to the lower
support structure.

25 23. (original) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 22, wherein:
said elongated distal portions of said spines are generally directed in a
similar direction.

30 24. (original) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 23, wherein:
the distal portions of the spines are curved.

35 25. (original) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 24, wherein:
the distal portions of the spines are curled.

- 1 26. (original) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 25, wherein:
the lower support structure is landscape fabric material and the
landscape fabric material substantially blocks the transmission of
sunlight through the landscape fabric material.
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27. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 21, wherein:
said plurality of spines are arranged in discrete rows.
28. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 21, wherein:
10 said base portions of said spines are wider than said elongated distal
portions.
29. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 21, wherein:
said distal ends of said spines come to a point.
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30. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 28, wherein:
said spines have a triangular shape.
- 20 31. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 21, wherein:
the distal portions of the spines are angled nearly parallel to the lower
support structure.
32. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 21, wherein:
25 the lower support structure does not block the transmission of
sunlight.
33. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 21, wherein:
a. said lower support structure comprises a plurality of strips that
30 carry the spines;
b. said plurality of strips being joined together.
34. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 33, further
comprising:
- 35 a. a plurality of second strips that do not have spines;
b. a sheet of landscape fabric material; and

1 c. said sheet of landscape fabric material is disposed between said plurality of strips that carry the spines and the plurality of second strips that do not have spines.

5 35. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 34, wherein: said second strips have pegs which are received in holes in the strips carrying the spines.

10 36. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 33, wherein:

a. said plurality of strips that carry the spines are elongated and are arranged in substantially parallel relationship;

b. each of said plurality of strips that carry the spines has a first end and a second end; and

15 c. selected pairs of adjacent strips that carry the spines are arranged so that the first end of the first one of said strips making up the selected pair of adjacent strips is not in alignment with the first end of the second strip of the selected adjacent pair of strips.

20 37. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 36, wherein: selected adjacent pairs of strips occur at regular intervals along the lower support structure.

25 38. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 37, further comprising:

a. a second landscape/erosion control structure comprising:

1. a lower support structure;

30 2. a plurality of spines attached to the lower support structure, each of said plurality of spines being formed with a base end, a base portion, an elongated distal portion, and a distal end;

35 3. wherein the spines are arranged in relation to each other and to the lower support structure such that spaces exist between most of the distal portions of the spines, and the spines are relatively stiff such that the distal ends of the spines

1 stand away from the lower support structure when in a rest
position; and

4. said lower support structure comprises a plurality of strips
that carry the spines, said plurality of strips being joined
5 together, said plurality of strips that carry the spines are
elongated and are arranged in substantially parallel relationship,
each of said plurality of strips that carry the spines having a first
end and a second end, and selected pairs of adjacent strips that
10 carry the spines are arranged so that the first end of the first
one of said strips making up the selected pair of adjacent strips
is not in alignment with the first end of the second strip of the
selected adjacent pair of strips, and the selected adjacent pairs
of strips occur at regular intervals along the lower support
structure; and wherein

15 b. the first and second landscape/erosion control structures are
arranged so that the second ends of the strips carrying the spines of
the first landscape/erosion control structure are adjacent to the first
ends of the strips carrying the spines of the second landscape/erosion
control structure.

20 39. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 21, wherein:
the spines are greater than or equal to 0.5 inches in height.

40. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 21, wherein:
25 the spaces between the distal portions of adjacent spines is
substantially 2 inches or greater.

41. (new) A landscape/erosion control structure for retaining landscaping
materials such as mulch over a selected portion of ground, the
30 landscape/erosion control structure comprising:

a. a lower support structure placed over a selected portion of
ground;
b. a plurality of spines attached to the lower support structure,
35 each of said plurality of spines being formed with a base end, a base
portion, an elongated distal portion, and a distal end;

- 1 c. wherein the spines are arranged in relation to each other and to
the lower support structure such that spaces exist between most of
the distal portions of the spines;
- 5 d. the spines are relatively stiff such that the distal ends of the
spines stand away from the lower support structure when in a rest
position; and
- e. mulch placed over the lower support structure and resting on
the lower support structure and in contact with the spines.
- 10 42. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 41, wherein;
when the plurality of spines are in the rest position, the distal portions
of most of the spines are disposed at an acute angle to the lower
support structure.
- 15 43. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 42, wherein:
said elongated distal portions of said spines are generally directed in a
similar direction.
- 20 44. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 43, wherein:
the distal portions of the spines are curved.
45. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 44, wherein:
the distal portions of the spines are curled.
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46. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 45, wherein:
the lower support structure is landscape fabric material and the
landscape fabric material substantially blocks the transmission of
sunlight through the landscape fabric material.
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47. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 41, wherein:
said plurality of spines are arranged in discrete rows.
- 35 48. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 41, wherein:
said base portions of said spines are wider than said elongated distal
portions.

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49. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 41, wherein:
said distal ends of said spines come to a point.

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50. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 48, wherein:
said spines have a triangular shape.

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51. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 41, wherein:
the distal portions of the spines are angled nearly parallel to the lower
support structure.

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52. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 41, wherein:
the lower support structure does not block the transmission of
sunlight.

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53. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 41, wherein:
a. said lower support structure comprises a plurality of strips that
carry the spines;
b. said plurality of strips being joined together.

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54. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 53, further
comprising:
a. a plurality of second strips that do not have spines;
b. a sheet of landscape fabric material; and
c. said sheet of landscape fabric material is disposed between said
plurality of strips that carry the spines and the plurality of second
strips that do not have spines.

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55. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 54, wherein:
said second strips have pegs which are received in holes in the strips
carrying the spines.

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56. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 53, wherein:
a. said plurality of strips that carry the spines are elongated and
are arranged in substantially parallel relationship;

- 1 b. each of said plurality of strips that carry the spines has a first
 end and a second end; and
 c. selected pairs of adjacent strips that carry the spines are
5 arranged so that the first end of the first one of said strips making up
 the selected pair of adjacent strips is not in alignment with the first
 end of the second strip of the selected adjacent pair of strips.

57. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 56, wherein:
10 selected adjacent pairs of strips occur at regular intervals along the
 lower support structure.

58. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 57, further
 comprising:

- 15 a. a second landscape/erosion control structure comprising:
 1. a lower support structure;
 2. a plurality of spines attached to the lower support
 structure, each of said plurality of spines being formed with a
 base end, a base portion, an elongated distal portion, and a
20 distal end;
 3. wherein the spines are arranged in relation to each other
 and to the lower support structure such that spaces exist
 between most of the distal portions of the spines, and the
 spines are relatively stiff such that the distal ends of the spines
25 stand away from the lower support structure when in a rest
 position; and
 4. said lower support structure comprises a plurality of strips
 that carry the spines, said plurality of strips being joined
 together, said plurality of strips that carry the spines are
30 elongated and are arranged in substantially parallel relationship,
 each of said plurality of strips that carry the spines having a first
 end and a second end, and selected pairs of adjacent strips that
 carry the spines are arranged so that the first end of the first
 one of said strips making up the selected pair of adjacent strips
35 is not in alignment with the first end of the second strip of the
 selected adjacent pair of strips, and the selected adjacent pairs

1 of strips occur at regular intervals along the lower support
structure; and wherein

5 b. the first and second landscape/erosion control structures are
arranged so that the second ends of the strips carrying the spines of
the first landscape/erosion control structure are adjacent to the first
ends of the strips carrying the spines of the second landscape/erosion
control structure.

59. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 41, wherein:
10 the spines are greater than or equal to 0.5 inches in height.

60. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 41, wherein:
the spaces between the distal portions of adjacent spines is
substantially 2 inches or greater.

15 61. (new) A landscape/erosion control structure for retaining landscaping
materials such as mulch over a selected portion of ground, the
landscape/erosion control structure comprising:

20 a. a lower support structure placed over a selected portion of
ground;
b. a plurality of spines attached to the lower support structure,
each of said plurality of spines being formed with a base end, a base
portion, an elongated distal portion, and a distal end;
25 c. wherein the spines are arranged in relation to each other and to
the lower support structure such that spaces exist between most of
the distal portions of the spines;
d. the spines are relatively stiff such that the distal ends of the
spines stand away from the lower support structure when in a rest
30 position; and
e. a substantial number of the distal portions of the spines do not
touch other spines; and
f. the distal portions of the spines have a designated width and
the spaces between the distal portions of adjacent spines is
35 substantially greater than the width of the spines.

62. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 61, wherein;

- 1 when the plurality of spines are in the rest position, the distal portions
of most of the spines are disposed at an acute angle to the lower
support structure.
- 5 63. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 62, wherein:
said elongated distal portions of said spines are generally directed in a
similar direction.
- 10 64. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 63, wherein:
the distal portions of the spines are curved.
- 15 65. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 64, wherein:
the distal portions of the spines are curled.
- 20 66. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 65, wherein:
the lower support structure is landscape fabric material and the
landscape fabric material substantially blocks the transmission of
sunlight through the landscape fabric material.
- 25 67. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 61, wherein:
said plurality of spines are arranged in discrete rows.
- 30 68. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 61, wherein:
said base portions of said spines are wider than said elongated distal
portions.
- 35 69. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 61, wherein:
said distal ends of said spines come to a point.
70. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 68, wherein:
said spines have a triangular shape.
71. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 61, wherein:
the distal portions of the spines are angled nearly parallel to the lower
support structure.

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72. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 61, wherein:
the lower support structure does not block the transmission of
sunlight.

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73. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 61, wherein:

a. said lower support structure comprises a plurality of strips that
carry the spines;

b. said plurality of strips being joined together.

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74. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 73, further
comprising:

a. a plurality of second strips that do not have spines;

b. a sheet of landscape fabric material; and

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c. said sheet of landscape fabric material is disposed between said
plurality of strips that carry the spines and the plurality of second
strips that do not have spines.

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75. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 74, wherein:
said second strips have pegs which are received in holes in the strips
carrying the spines.

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76. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 73, wherein:

a. said plurality of strips that carry the spines are elongated and
are arranged in substantially parallel relationship;

b. each of said plurality of strips that carry the spines has a first
end and a second end; and

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c. selected pairs of adjacent strips that carry the spines are
arranged so that the first end of the first one of said strips making up
the selected pair of adjacent strips is not in alignment with the first
end of the second strip of the selected adjacent pair of strips.

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77. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 76, wherein:
selected adjacent pairs of strips occur at regular intervals along the
lower support structure.

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78. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 77, further comprising:

- 5 a. a second landscape/erosion control structure comprising:
1. a lower support structure;
 2. a plurality of spines attached to the lower support structure, each of said plurality of spines being formed with a base end, a base portion, an elongated distal portion, and a distal end;
 - 10 3. wherein the spines are arranged in relation to each other and to the lower support structure such that spaces exist between most of the distal portions of the spines, and the spines are relatively stiff such that the distal ends of the spines stand away from the lower support structure when in a rest position; and
 - 15 4. said lower support structure comprises a plurality of strips that carry the spines, said plurality of strips being joined together, said plurality of strips that carry the spines are elongated and are arranged in substantially parallel relationship, each of said plurality of strips that carry the spines having a first end and a second end, and selected pairs of adjacent strips that carry the spines are arranged so that the first end of the first one of said strips making up the selected pair of adjacent strips is not in alignment with the first end of the second strip of the selected adjacent pair of strips, and the selected adjacent pairs of strips occur at regular intervals along the lower support structure; and wherein
 - 20 b. the first and second landscape/erosion control structures are arranged so that the second ends of the strips carrying the spines of the first landscape/erosion control structure are adjacent to the first ends of the strips carrying the spines of the second landscape/erosion control structure.
 - 25 b. the first and second landscape/erosion control structures are arranged so that the second ends of the strips carrying the spines of the first landscape/erosion control structure are adjacent to the first ends of the strips carrying the spines of the second landscape/erosion control structure.
 - 30 b. the first and second landscape/erosion control structures are arranged so that the second ends of the strips carrying the spines of the first landscape/erosion control structure are adjacent to the first ends of the strips carrying the spines of the second landscape/erosion control structure.

35 79. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 61, wherein: the spines are greater than or equal to 0.5 inches in height.

- 1 80. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 61, wherein:
the spaces between the distal portions of adjacent spines is
substantially 2 inches or greater.

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